

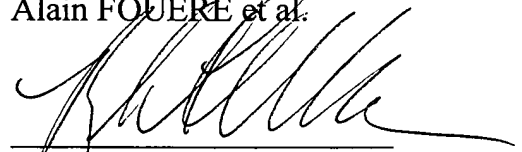
**REMARKS**

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the foregoing amendment prior to examination of the above-identified patent application.

Applicant notes that the instant amendment has been prepared to clarify the description of the invention and eliminate multiply dependent claims, so that the disclosure and claims are presented in better form for U.S. patent prosecution. Further, Applicant notes that the scope of the claims has not been narrowed for any reasons related to a basis of patentability, and, therefore, that no estoppel should attach.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alain FOUERE et al.



Neil F. Greenblum

Reg. No. 28,394

*35,43*

June 18, 2004  
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.  
1950 Roland Clarke Place  
Reston, VA 20191